

Welcome to the World of Early Childhood Education!

THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE DEPENDS ON THE SUCCESS OF EVERY CHILD BORN TODAY.

One of the most critical factors in a child's successful development is his or her relationships with teachers. In fact, we know from research that young children's brain development and success in school is enhanced by care-giving adults who are skilled at nurturing children's emotional and social needs, and helping children develop literacy and cognitive skills.

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO BECOME A PART OF A CHILD'S LIFELONG SUCCESS.

Right now, industry leaders in early childhood education in Washington state are prepared to help you develop the knowledge, skills and abilities to work successfully with children and earn a livable wage. Our job is to help you understand your education opportunities and get started on your path to becoming a successful early childhood education professional.

We hope that this pathway guide will assist you in understanding ways to reach your education and career goals in working with Washington state's most precious resources—our children.

LOGOS OF DEL, SBCTC, HECB, R&R etc.

PASSION FOR CHILDREN

We need you if you have a passion for children! Your passion and experience can help you acquire an entry-level job in the field of Early Learning in the following job classifications:

Childcare Aid

- description
- types of duties performed
- salary
- potential places of employment

Childcare Assistant

- description
- types of duties performed
- salary
- potential places of employment

Education Needed

It is helpful, but not required, to have a GED or high school diploma to work as a Childcare Aid or Assistant. In order to advance in the profession of early learning, however, a GED or high school diploma will be required—and your local community or technical college can assist you. Local community and technical colleges or local community-based organizations offer Adult Basic Education, GED preparation and testing, and high school diploma programs. In addition, if you are an English-as-a-Second Language Speaker, community and technical colleges and community-based organizations can assist you in advancing your English skills while learning skills to work with children. See the chart below for assistance.

